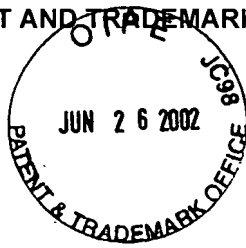


IN THE
UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Application Number	10/028,987
Filing Date	December 28, 2001
First Named Inventor	Vincent McNally
Group Art Unit	1614
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Attorney Docket Number	2426-109

Title of the Invention: ANTIINFECTIVE FREE INTRAMAMMARY VETERINARY COMPOSITION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows prior to examination on the merits.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-31 and substitute the following new claims.

~~32~~ (New) A prophylactic method of controlling infection in a mammary gland by a mastitis-causing organism, comprising sealing a teat canal of a mammary gland with a seal formulation so as to provide a physical barrier in the teat canal.

~~33~~ (New) The method as claimed in claim ~~32~~ wherein the seal formulation comprises a non-toxic heavy metal salt in a gel base.

~~34~~ (New) The method as claimed in claim ~~33~~ wherein the seal formulation contains at least 40% by weight of the heavy metal salt.

~~35~~ (New) The method as claimed in claim ~~34~~ wherein the seal formulation contains from 50% to 75% by weight of the heavy metal salt.

~~36~~ (New) The method as claimed in claim ~~35~~ wherein the seal formulation contains approximately 65% by weight of the heavy metal salt.

~~37~~ (New) The method as claimed in claim ~~36~~ wherein the salt is bismuth subnitrate.

~~38~~ (New) The method as claimed in claim ~~37~~ wherein the base is a gel based on aluminium stearate.

~~39~~ (New) The method as claimed in claim ~~38~~ wherein the base includes liquid paraffin as a vehicle.